

REMARKS

Applicant submits the foregoing amendments after the final Office Action of the Examiner mailed March 8, 2006. Applicant believes that the amendments do not present any new subject matter that would require further searching. Applicant respectfully believes that the claims are in condition for allowance.

At the outset, Applicant continues his earlier position that the cited Hiler reference does not disclose anhydrous reaction conditions. The reference in Hiler to hydrochloric acid means, by definition, the presence of water. No amount of Examiner argument can change that empirical fact. Notwithstanding, Applicant has proposed the foregoing amendments to move the application to issue promptly.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate into the claim the reaction temperature range limitation of about 50°C to about 200°C. This specific temperature range has not been disclosed in the prior art. Therefore, using the language of the rejection, this is not a simple question of discovering optimum or workable ranges within the general conditions that are disclosed in the prior art. This temperature range is nowhere disclosed in the prior art. The temperature range disclosed in Hiler is 700°C to 1000°C. Hiler does not disclose any other range except 700°C to 1000°C. Therefore, it is not possible to state that the temperature range of Hiler is an exemplified range only. There is no additional basis for teaching any temperature range other than 700°C to 1000°C. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 has been amended to include the language of claim 1. The Examiner has already indicated that this claim is allowable when rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim. Likewise, original claim 7 should be allowable for the same reason. Further, claim 10 has been amended to include the ether solvent limitation of claim 5. Therefore, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

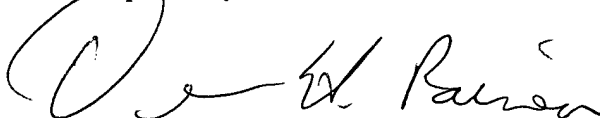
Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 1. The specific solvents that are recited in claim 8 are a larger list than simply the ether solvent set forth in claim 5. However, these additional organic solvents are not disclosed in any prior art reference.

For one or more of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested hereon.

FEES

It is believed that there are no fees associated with this filing. However, in the event the calculations are incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 05-1372.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis H. Rainear", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

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